

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important national news items occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as may be of interest to the trade union movement.

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PARTY VS. BLOC GOVERNMENT

Those who condemn blocs and talk of "party government" should read the history of this country.

Whenever a party in public publicity he discusses the decline of the party system and deplores divisions in the nation-law-making branch.

A well-known lawyer and statesman is the latest to take this position. In New York, recently, he pleaded for a return to the "good old days" when party worship and party discipline were the rule of privilege.

Starting with the constitutional convention, blocs have been the rule.

These groups have often developed into formidable political parties.

The leaders of these political parties then insist on party loyalty, ignoring the fact that their beginning can be traced to what is now termed a bloc.

The claim that the Government of the United States is a "government by party" cannot be sustained by history.

Washington warned against the evils of partyism.

Our political and economic history is a record of blocs and party formations, which are replaced by other blocs and other parties that more clearly serve the economic needs of the members thereof.

To talk of the bloc system as a "foreign birth" is to disregard the facts.

The word is foreign, but the theory is not.

This country was the first to establish a representative form of government.

From its inception voters have divided into groups or blocs for economic reasons.

Experience has convinced the voters that the group system is the best method to safeguard and advance their liberties.

They will undoubtedly continue to do so regardless of the fulminations of party bosses and statesmen.

GOVERNMENT COUGED BY COAL OPERATORS

Washington, Feb. 6.—Non-union bituminous operators of West Virginia have threatened to sue the government for the price of coal sold to the government, since the anthracite shut-down, according to the chief engineer of the government fuel yards, testifying before a joint congressional committee.

Mr. Pope said he bought coal from Payette and McDowell counties, last March, for \$2.41 a ton, and now he must pay for \$6.16 to \$6.50. These counties are controlled by anti-union coal barons who operate on the non-union basis, "to protect the public."

Edgar Wallace, a member of the United Mine Workers, and legislative representative of the A. F. of L., told the committee that increased prices for this coal was not due to labor costs. He said the miners were paid the same wages for mining \$6.60 coal that they received for mining \$2.41 coal. He declared also that there had been a tremendous drop in freight rates from the West Virginia field during the last six months, and that some of which has been subtracted from the consumer's bill.

Charles P. Selden, Jr., a Pennsylvania mine operator, and W. Griffith, a local coal dealer, staged a wordy row before the committee on who is responsible for gouging the coal consumer. Mr. Griffith said the coal merchant sold him a ton of coke last November for \$15 a ton, but he paid but \$4.

The merchant asserted the committee that in a turnover of \$333,250 he made a profit of only 2 cents on the job. Applying these figures to both organized and unorganized, 100,000 Denko workers are deprived of employment.

UNEMPLOYMENT HITS EUROPEAN WORKERS

Vienna, Austria, Feb. 6.—Unemployment has increased in Austria to an alarming extent. The national trade union organizations include among its schedule of demands for remedial measures the abolition of the period of compulsory school attendance by one year, thus holding up the constant stream of young boys and girls being turned out of school without the remotest chance of employment.

Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 6.—Unemployment among trade unions in Denmark has increased from 73,000 to 84,000 for the first month of 1932. One out of every three organized workers is out of a job. Applying these figures to both organized and unorganized, 100,000 Denko workers are deprived of employment.

LABOR DISPUTE

Cincinnati, Feb. 6.—The Patent Corporation and the International Union of United Brewery, Food, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers have reached an agreement and this long dispute has been brought to a close. The corporation will operate under strictly union conditions.

IRON THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

Pittsburgh, Feb. 6.—The carpenters' district council has signed a three-year agreement with the Iron Works contractors. A wage rate of \$9 a day was being effective from January 1.

EXECUTIVE EFFICIENCY BELOW 50 PER CENT

New York, Feb. 6.—E. K. Hall, an official of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, calls for a close study of the work of chief executives convinces him that they range in efficiency from 10 per cent to 50 per cent, with most of them falling below 50 per cent.

FEWER WORKERS, LARGER OUTPUT; WEALTH DISTRIBUTION IS UNJUST

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Federal Reserve Board reports a 30 per cent increased production in American factories in 1925, as compared with 1919. Despite the increase of nearly a third in output, the board reports that there are fewer workers employed and that those at work in 1925 are 7 per cent more than in 1919.

"Such a great increase in production," said the board, "either has been the result of the department of social action of the National Catholic welfare conference."

"It is not being sold here," continues the department, "because labor's wages have not gone up enough for them to buy their share of it."

"Neither can the farmers buy their share of the goods because they are far worse off now than in 1919."

TOBACCO CO-OPERATIVE MILKED BY OFFICERS

Washington, Feb. 6.—Considerable apprehension is felt in the tobacco industry over the practices which the Federal Trade Commission alleges the officials of a large tobacco company are using in reducing wages. The company has resorted to for personal profit, and which brought the association into difficulties.

The association tobacco had to be redried for the market. Officials of the co-operative became financially interested in drying plants. Two high officials, according to the commission, "received \$32,000 in cash from one year's transactions."

It is feared that the continued growth of farmers' co-operatives will result in a similar situation, as revealed by the report of the federal trade commission is not nipped in the bud.

ALUMINUM TAXES CUT WITH TREASURY AID

Washington, Feb. 6.—Since Andrew Mellon has been secretary of the treasury, the aluminum trust, in which Mr. Mellon has a large interest, has saved \$2,500,000 in taxes. The treasury department has made every effort to work an agreement.

This double check is made by the fact that the company has been investigated the internal revenue by the report of the committee of Michigan is the result of the investigation.

The report calls attention to the company's record of paying profits and disbursements. Treasury officials permit the company to deduct from taxable income more than \$15,000,000 as "amortization" on assets that the committee's counsel declared to be "grossly exaggerated," which permitted the saving of \$2,500,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS

Seattle, Feb. 6.—Unemployment in Washington has increased with the closing of lumber camps and mills and the workers have been turned to the cities are also swelling the number of out-of-work.

INHERITANCE TAX DIVIDES SENATORS

Washington, Feb. 6.—The question of repealing the inheritance, or estate, tax feature of the tax bill has smashed party lines in the senate. The division is along non-partisan lines just as complete as in the case of the world court, when 40 Republicans and 36 Democrats favored the proposed change.

The inheritance, or "death" tax, as it is called by its foes, is opposed on the grounds that the federal government should have the collection of it to the states.

Friends of a federal inheritance tax reply that the states can not collect it because Florida and other states, wishing to become havens for the wealthy, have abandoned it. Only recently Florida passed a constitutional amendment against this system.

Other states, in self-defense, will have to do likewise with the result that no inheritance tax will be levied.

As a federal inheritance tax is continued it will fall only upon the very rich, as estates up to \$50,000 pay nothing under the present law, and estates of \$50,000 to \$100,000 pay approximately \$40,000, based on the present maximum 40 per cent rate. The house proposed to cut the rate to 20 per cent, and the senate bill proposes to abandon this tax altogether.

PRES. GREEN SUSPENDS RAILWAY CLERKS' UNION

Washington, Feb. 6.—Complying with a decision by the last convention of the A. F. of L., President Green announced the suspension of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks from membership in the American Federation of Labor.

The suspension stands until the clerks comply with the convention's demand that they be organized as a union and elect a representative to the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

In explaining the suspension, President Green said that the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks had been under discussion for months. As the A. F. of L. has no jurisdiction over the A. F. of L. have made every effort to induce the clerks to maintain their union.

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IDEALS OF WORKERS BRING LABOR UNION

It isn't altogether in the air; it is something solid down below. The ideals of the labor movement are actually taking hold, and are conscious of a substantial driving force of making the standards raised by labor through generations of suffering and sacrifice.

Let us think. It should be a source of gratification to us that teachers are part of these assembling groups—Henry R. Livens, president of New York Teachers' Union No. 5.

CONGRESSMAN KILL STOP-WATCH PLAN

Washington, Feb. 6.—The house rejected a stop-watch provision in the navy appropriation bill, despite every effort of Congressman Blanton. The Texas congressman also made a futile stand for other measuring systems.

"The use of the stop watch and the employment of the premium system are the essential portions upon which the Taylor system rests," said Congressman Blanton. He declared it was neither morally nor economically right to put the workers with so little humane concern as to attempt to speed up in the production forces in our arsenals and naval yards.

"Such ordinary and usual methods of supervision and control," he said, "employed by the Taylor system should be in harmony with the conditions of society generally with respect to working conditions."

"The operation of the Taylor system would not only be an insult to the particular men concerned but would be an insult to the body politic."

The chair followed precedent in the case of the Taylor system's point of order that the stop watch provision be stricken from the bill.

U. S. CAPITALISTS HAVE WORLD AS LIMIT FOR EXPLOITATION

Pittsburgh, Feb. 6.—American capitalists are determined to exploit the world as a limit for exploitation. They are determined to exploit the world as a limit for exploitation. They are determined to exploit the world as a limit for exploitation.

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WORKERS OPPOSE NEW INSURANCE PLAN

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TEXTILE WAGE CUTS MAY BRING STORM

Fall River, Mass., Feb. 6.—A storm may break in the eastern textile industry if the proposed wage-cutting program is carried out. The textile industry is organized to resist the wage-cutting program.

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Corporation Control Held By Few; Voteless Stock Too Easy Folks

New York, Feb. 6.—Prof. W. Z. Ripley of Harvard university recently declared that stockholders are disfranchised by large corporations that have passed under the control of small groups.

The Ripley club was ridiculed by financial interests, but it is now being seriously discussed. The question is of interest to workers who are to buy stock in these corporations for reasons that Prof. Ripley shows do not exist.

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PROPERTY CONFISCATION HANDED TO ANTI-FASCISTS

Rome, Italy, Feb. 6.—The Italian legislature adopted Mussolini's plan to confiscate property of Italian citizens who have been convicted of crimes against the state.

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OPERATORS BLOCK STRIKE END; REFUSE TO PUBLISH PROFITS

New York, Feb. 6.—What if the mine operators are behind the anti-strike coal operators?

This point is raised by Ellis Searles, editor of the Mine Workers' Journal, who points out that Major W. W. Inglis, supposed spokesman for the operators, accepted the peace proposal of a Scranton newspaper publisher and that it was later rejected.

"Apparently there is in Philadelphia a more powerful spokesman for the operators than Major Inglis, someone who holds the veto power," said Mr. Searles.

"This proves again that the operators' negotiating committee was without power of decision and that it could agree to nothing without the consent of its boss."

"The miners' representatives were clothed with full power to act. The operators were not."

MINE EXPLOSION KILLS MANY TRAPPED MINERS

Helena, Ala., Feb. 6.—Another non-union mine of this state has demanded a fearful toll. Sixty-three miners were killed by an explosion in the Mosshorn mine of the Premier Coal company, near town and one of the largest in the state.

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FASCISM'S TRUE FACE: MUSSOLINI EXPOSED

The spread of fascism and fascist ideas in countries outside of Italy is very largely due to the mistaken ideas which are prevalent as to what fascism really is.

In France, for instance, large sections of the people are disoriented by the propaganda of government and ultra-nationalist elements promulgated by the discredited press for the need for some "strong personality" who will restore "orderly conditions" in the country.

Even some workers honestly believe that Mussolini is a typical strong man. They have understood that he is often compared with Nero and other Roman emperors, a comparison which is a gross misapprehension. For, although the constitution under which he rules is a Fascist one, Mussolini, whose advent will also mean the suppression of public opinion after the Mussolini model.

OPEN-FRONT TROLEYS ARE HELD UNLAWFUL

Washington, Feb. 6.—The court of appeals of the District of Columbia has decided that a local street car company cannot violate a law of Congress passed in 1905 requiring all street car companies to close in the fronts of their cars for the protection of the motorman.

The street car company persisted in putting into use time to time cars of a last century vintage equipped with front windshields only, leaving the motorman exposed to the elements.

Last year, 20 years after the enactment of the law, a member of Congress introduced a bill to amend the law, and the motorman protested the comfort of the motorman protest.

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TAX DODGERS' DEVICE CONDEMNED IN SENATE

Washington, Feb. 6.—The "consolidated returns" is the device of questionable devices by which industrial corporations reduce their income taxes without the knowledge of the public. Senator Norris of Nebraska points out that four Pittsburgh banking concerns in which Secretary of the Mellon is interested had their income taxes reduced \$91,000 by means of this device.

"The returns of these corporations were secret," Norris said, "and they never saw the light of day and no one knew what they contained. It is a device that has not been for the interest of the country."

Senator Norris charged that under the "consolidated returns" scheme the Mellon family had saved \$1,000,000 in taxes. He said that the Mellon family had saved \$1,000,000 in taxes.

SELLING AT PROFIT AIM OF BUSINESS

Boston, Mass., Feb. 6.—"The aim of business is to sell something for more than it cost," said a speaker at the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers in New York.

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MINE CONVICT SLAIN; POISON HIDES CRIME

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 6.—An investigation of the Birmingham mine disaster of last year has revealed that the death of James Knox, the first of the 11 killed, was the result of a poisoning.

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